



Northwestern State University

# ALUMNI COLUMNS

Natchitoches, Louisiana

Winter 1989



*The Spirit of  
Northwestern*



Elise James

## *From the Director*

Dear Graduates and Friends of Northwestern:

Where did the fall season go? Homecoming, reunions, parties, Alumni meetings and receptions. A very busy fall indeed.

As I was walking through the parking area on the way to the Eastern Illinois game I spotted a purple sweater. Yes, you are right, a demon fan in Illinois. We had invited all graduates from that area to attend the game and several made it. I handed out Demon memorabilia to all that attended. What fun!

In September we hosted an Alumni party prior to the Southwest Texas game and invited the San Marcos, San Antonio, and Austin Alumni. Great turnout!

Homecoming was a big success this year and will continue to grow with all the positive things happening at Northwestern. State Fair Weekend, with our new opponent, Northeast, has become very exciting.

The Huntsville area Alumni got together the weekend of October 28th and renewed old acquaintances and made new ones.

We once again journeyed into bayou country to Nicholls State and entertained the South Louisiana Alumni. They must have invented "partyng."

To top off our wonderful fall activities we again hosted the "60 Year" Reunion. These are graduates who have been out of school over 60 years. They enjoy each other, seeing the campus, and talking of old times "on the hill."

Alumni responded to our dues mailing more so then ever this year. I do believe it was the added incentive of receiving the beautiful History of Northwestern book by Dr. Marietta LeBreton. We need your contribution desperately to aid in scholarships and chapter expansion. Please, if you have not sent your Alumni dues, do so at this time. Single memberships are \$15, married memberships are \$25. This can be sent to the Alumni Center, Northwestern State University, Natchitoches, LA 71497.

Alumni involvement is so important in all areas: recruiting, fundraising, and helping to promote a positive image for Northwestern. We hope you will become involved in all of these areas.

We at the Alumni Center would like to take this opportunity to wish you and yours a happy and holy holiday season.

Elise P. James  
Coordinator of External Affairs



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### STAFF

#### Editor

Elise James

#### Art Director

Don Sepulvado

#### Staff Writer

Michelle Weego

#### Contributors

Doug Ireland

Jerry Pierce

Jim Johnson

#### Photography

Information Services



No other campus organization demonstrates the "spirit" of Northwestern State University better and more enthusiastically than the 240-member "Spirit of Northwestern" Demon Marching Band, the largest marching band in the university's history and the second largest university marching band in Louisiana. Showing off some of the band's spirit are (front row) Gary Ellis of Thibodaux, (second row, from left) Mark Mertens of Pineville, Dana Hebert of Baton Rouge, David Lima of New Orleans, Ricky Bergeron of Donaldsonville, Jason Mathews of Bossier City, and (top) Laura Rieth of Thibodaux. See related story on page 6.

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Robert Alost

## From the President

To our Alumni and Friends:

Northwestern State University's resurgence over the past few years, and particularly its progress and achievements in 1989, provide the impetus for the continued growth and excellence as the institution enters the final decade of the twentieth century.

Your Alma Mater has the largest enrollment this fall in its 105-year history. More than 6,900 students registered for the fall semester, and there are increases in full-time students, freshmen registration and enrollment on the Natchitoches campus.

The dramatic upswing in Northwestern's enrollment is remarkable. After a record enrollment of 6,722 in 1981, the university experienced declining enrollment for five consecutive years. The student population had diminished to 5,272 by 1986.

Since then the enrollment has soared for six consecutive semesters. This year's all-time high enrollment reflects an increase since 1989 of 1,711 students or a growth rate in enrollment of 32.5 percent. A three point increase in the ACT score of incoming freshmen also shows the significant improvement in the quality and academic potential of students who are being attracted to NSU.

Northwestern's faculty and staff members deserve the credit for the noteworthy improvement in the university's enrollment and in its image. Everyone at the university is dedicated to the recruitment and retention of students and to the goal of making Northwestern the kind of exciting, progressive institution that students want to attend.

The record enrollment is only one of the numerous achievements that make 1989 such a memorable year at Northwestern.

In recent months, Northwestern has become the only university in the deep South with the capability to distribute television signals via satellite in North America. The uplink which makes this possible is part of the Louisiana Research and Development Center on the NSU campus.

The sophisticated equipment - which opens the doors for extensive "distance learning" programs at Northwestern - was used for the first time in September to uplink a program from the NSU campus to C-SPAN, a national public affairs network.

Northwestern and Natchitoches are also receiving national attention as the filming site for the new movie "Steel Magnolias". Producer Ray Stark allowed Northwestern to have the Deep South Premier of the picture, and more than \$35,000 in proceeds from the event will be used for scholarships at NSU.

Mr. Stark also arranged through the Coca Cola Company for Northwestern to receive a new \$30,000 message center. The electronic sign in the heart of the NSU campus will be used to provide information on university activities to students, faculty and visitors.

So your Alma Mater is riding the crest of success, excitement and positive recognition into the 1990's. There is a solid foundation at Northwestern for continued distinction and superiority in education and public service. We invite you to be an even closer part of the university's accomplishments through involvement in alumni programs and other NSU activities.

Sincerely,  
Robert A. Alost  
President



# The Grady Erwin Nature Area Is Established

**T**he Well Woods will receive a new name, Grady Erwin Nature Area in memory of Dr. Grady Erwin, former Department Head of Biology, who passed away in October of 1989. For years, the woods were known as "Normal Wells". All the water for the college was drawn from six wells. After the wells began to silt and sand in, the area was turned into a campsite with tables and grills for campus organization picnics. The Well Woods contains all of the stages of environmental succession. Its beech-maple climax vegetation is quite unique and would take five to ten centuries to reappear should a disturbance occur. It is a virgin type forest which represents vegetation present at the time of the earliest settlers in this region. The woods may then represent the only virgin type

forest on the "El Camino Real Highway."

In 1961, Dr. Grady Erwin, Earl Cross, George Ware, and members of the Departments of Biology and Agriculture initiated steps to establish the "Normal Wells" as a nature reserve area. The Nature Conservancy sent scientists to Northwestern in 1964 to survey the area, and later endorsed the establishment of the area as a nature reserve area. Louisiana State Board of Colleges approved the establishment of the 84 acre Well Woods Nature Reserve area in 1965.

Dr. Erwin's tenure at Northwestern started in 1945 when he was first employed as an associate professor. Later appointed to the Department headship in 1952, he served in this capacity until 1973 when he retired. As Department Head of Biology, he built



In this photograph from 1964, standing left to right are: George L. Collins, Dr. George Ware, President John Kyser, Doris Leonard, Dr. Earle Cross and Dr. W. Grady Erwin.

a department which is recognized throughout the State of Louisiana for its academic superiority. While at Northwestern, Dr. Erwin's own personal activities in the development of BSCS (Biological Sciences Curriculum Studies) and National Science Foundation work brought national recognition to Louisiana and Northwestern State University.

Dr. Erwin enjoyed the admiration and respect of all who have had the privilege of being associated with him. He touched the lives of a large number of students in such a way that their lives were made better by their brief encounter with him. To preserve his memory, not only has the Grady Erwin Nature Area been

established, but a scholarship fund has been started. The Grady Erwin scholarship will maintain his longtime interest in the education of biology students. The Biology Faculty would like to invite you to participate in increasing the available funds for this academic scholarship. Send your contribution to the NSU Foundation made out to the Grady Erwin Fund.

## *Steel Magnolias* Book Details Filming

**D**olly Parton probably would have been a beautician if she hadn't been an entertainer. Positive thinker Shirley MacLaine loved playing a cynical battle-ax. Tom Skerritt allowed waitresses to order for him. And a solid Republican displayed a "Michael Dukakis for President" sign in his yard to make his new neighbor, actress Olympia Dukakis, feel more at home. These are just a few of the behind-the-scenes stories told in *Steel Magnolias Scrapbook*, the latest book from the NSU Press.

When the cast and crew of the blockbuster film *Steel Magnolias* invaded Natchitoches and the campus of NSU in the summer of 1988, one of the results was a love affair between the "movie people" and the locals. That special relationship is captured in *Steel Magnolias Scrapbook*—told in words and shown in more than 145 photos.



"This is more than a book. It's an experience," said *Steel Magnolias* playwright, Robert Harling.

The large format volume has 144 pages with as many photos, many of them in full color. It is available direct from NSU Press, NSU, Natchitoches, LA 71497, or by calling (318) 357-4586. The price is \$15.95 each, and you can send a check or charge it with your Visa or Mastercard.

### The Search for the Best and Brightest Continues . . .

If you have a nomination for the Louisiana Scholars' College, please contact

the LSC for a nomination form. Write to Louisiana Scholars' College at Northwestern State University, Natchitoches, LA 71497 or call 1-800-426-3754 (in-state) or 1-800-327-1903 (out-of-state).

## Sixty-Five Are Rowing

**W**hen the NSU Rowing Team held its first meeting last year, about twelve people showed up. By last May, the team had grown to thirty. But when the team held this year's organizational meeting, sixty-five interested students arrived.

Although the rowing team does not have enough equipment at this time to accommodate this many members, they hold hope that the team will eventually own enough boats so that everyone who wants to row

will have the opportunity.

In its second year, the NSU rowing team has already become members of the United States Rowing Association with help from a donation by the Shreveport Alumni.

The team is now being coached by Gene Jeffords, a man with 20 years experience. Jeffords was responsible for attracting the Washburn, Wichita State and Purdue rowing teams to Northwestern for spring training last year. He has been talking with Princeton,

Brown, Rutgers and the Canadian National Team about coming to Louisiana for their winter and spring trainings.

Jeffords has suggested many plans for the Northwestern and Natchitoches areas. Among his several ideas include plans to develop the Sibley Lake peninsula into a park with a hike and bike trail and a water sports center which would be for rowing, canoeing and kayaking. The park would also be able to host regattas including state, national and even world

competitions.

Other plans include a "head race", a three mile race against the clock, on Cane River as well as a sculling and intramural center on Chaplin's Lake. Jeffords also hopes that an interest will be raised in disabled rowing both for rowers and coxswains.

Donations for the development of the rowing team can be sent to the NSU Rowing Team, 201C Russell Hall, Northwestern State University, Natchitoches, La. 71497.





## The Continuing Legacy of Noble B. Morrison

**T**he Business Administration Building at Northwestern State University was officially dedicated in memory of Professor Emeritus Noble B. Morrison during a ceremony on April 24, 1989 at Northwestern State University.

The dedication of the academic building serves as a permanent memorial to the achievements of Morrison, who came to Northwestern in 1930 as the first teacher of Commerce. Morrison, who developed and served 35 years as chairman of Northwestern's

Business department, retired in 1965, leaving a legacy of learning that has produced many outstanding business practitioner and educators throughout the nation.

Morrison died in January of 1988 at the age of 88 after being honored by his former students and colleagues in 1984 with the establishment of the Noble B. Morrison Endowment Fund for student scholarships and faculty development.

A recollection of Morrison was presented by Dr. George T.

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*"The biggest problem," Morrison recalled many years later, "was convincing people that business administration and business education were subjects that could be taught at all, or even should be."*

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Walker of Monroe, the retired president of Northeast Louisiana University who served as dean of applied arts and sciences at Northwestern from 1948 to 1958, as well as members of Morrison's family, including one child and two grandchildren. Northwestern's president, Dr. Robert A. Alost formally dedicated the building.

When Morrison arrived from Kansas to become the first business teacher at Northwestern in 1930, he found a total of 27 students ready for instruction in a curriculum that included typing, shorthand and commerce teaching methods. He also found that his task was similar to the difficulties faced by those who had created Northwestern 45 years earlier, "out of a wilderness," in 1884.

"The biggest problem," Morrison recalled many years later, "was convincing people that business administration and business education were subjects that could be taught at all, or even should be. I spent a lot of time those early years visiting every town with a high school, meeting with people and students, talking up the importance of business training for the future."

When he retired from teaching 35 years later, those 27 students had turned into a full-fledge Department of Business, which has supplied thousands of trained graduates to fill positions of commercial leadership and provided strong underpinning for the success of Northwestern as an effective institution of higher education.

By 1980, 50 years after Morrison came to Northwestern, there were 1,171 students enrolled in business programs, and education in business had "achieved respectability in academia and overwhelming acceptance in the real world of business decision making," according to a golden anniversary issue of the NSU Business Connection newsletter. Those enrollees made up 25 percent of Northwestern's full-time student body at the time.

In the spring of 1988, the year of Morrison's death, Northwestern's Department of Business had nearly 1,500 majors and awarded some 200 undergraduate and graduate degrees. And under this legacy, the growth of the business department at Northwestern will continue to flourish into the 1990's.

**F**ollowing in the 1970's tradition of big band names, Northwestern's marching band was formally given the title of "Spirit of Northwestern", fashioned after Northeast's "Sound of Today." Now moving into the 1990's, the band has lived up to its name as the shadowy spirit that backs up student support at pep rally's, livens up the holiday spirits during concert season and drives home the big sound of victory during every Demon touchdown during football season.

**The first rehearsal had only 48 members.**

Music Director Bill Brent first arrived as the leader of the "Spirit of Northwestern" seven years ago. But there wasn't much to the band in 1982. With only 48 members at his first rehearsal, Brent set about to increase the band size and quality. By State Fair game that year the band was up to 80 members; it had reached 100 by the end of football season. By the beginning of this fall, the "Spirit of Northwestern" increased to 240 members including the 12-member team of the Demon Dazzlers dance line.

And of course, Bill Brent is proud of his "children." During his time here, Brent has developed larger and better concert and symphony bands, established a jazz ensemble, created his own version of freshman orientation and joined the



## The Spirit of Northwestern Marching Band

*The Spirit of Northwestern should speak for itself. But although everyone loves a parade (or in this case, marching band) not everyone knows what hard work has gone into turning the Northwestern State University marching and concert bands into musical sensations. The Spirit of Northwestern is now known as the second largest college marching band in the state of Louisiana, topped only by LSU in Baton Rouge.*



Northwestern Recruitment Department—in his own way.

The "Spirit of Northwestern" is not just a marching band as Brent will be quick to point out to anyone.

"We have an excellent concert program," explained Brent. "There are three concert groups: a wind ensemble, consisting of the top 45 wind instrument players, and two concert bands. We have also developed a jazz ensemble. Several of our band members are a part of the NSU/Natchitoches Symphony. Everything is growing. We even have to hold auditions for the wind ensemble."

**Recruitment of members has increased considerably.**

"Our recruitment of new members is almost as intense as Northwestern's football recruitment," said Brent.

Assistant Director of Music Pam Towry accompanies Brent in his travels around the state to various high schools to discuss the music department at Northwestern.

"We get up and leave Natchitoches before 6 a.m. and travel to whatever schools we can in a day, then get back to the university for band practice," said Brent.

"Our students even do a lot of recruiting. During Christmas break they return to their high school bandrooms to talk about Northwestern. The music faculty help recruit through phone



calls to potential students," said Brent.

But now that the "Spirit of Northwestern" finally has the numbers it is looking for, the problems of funding a large band are becoming apparent.

"Recruiting has helped us grow, but now we are facing the problems of funding," said Brent. Our percussion section has new uniforms this year. Basically, we became so big that we ran out of uniforms and we had no choice in creating something different for them to wear. There are now 180 members in the horn line alone."

### **But with good recruitment comes quality.**

"This is the first time we've ever had to turn anyone away," said Brent. "We've been getting quality as well as quantity. We have a form of tryouts now; we've still got to work on developing our selection process."

With a big band

also comes the problems of directing a large number of people.

"In some ways a big band is easier to charge, but there are always difficulties," said Brent. "Because there are so many people, they tend to keep running into each other. It sometimes takes me 80 hours a week to chart a show. Meanwhile, we have practice three times a week from 4 p.m. to 6 p.m. It takes so many practices because we try to do a different show for every football game."

Starting with a week long pre-school rehearsal schedule in August, practices continue throughout football season until concert season begins.

Brent also understands how hard it is for a freshman to be thrust into college with more than just academic responsibilities on his hands. That's why Brent has developed a freshman program within the band itself.

The program

consists of upperclassmen band members who become freshmen advisors for the semester. They help the new band members with everything from how to put on a band uniform to any academic or personal problems they may be having. The freshmen advisors also correspond with the new members over the summer to prepare them for the activities in the fall. The freshman program also consists of personal one-on-one orientation classes during the semester.

"Through the 'Spirit of Northwestern,' we have become one big, very close-knit family," comments Cindy Hensarling, a junior and two year member of the horn line. "There's nothing that we wouldn't do for each other on the field or off."

Being a member of the "Spirit of Northwestern" takes more than musical talent. It takes responsibility and respect. As a member of the band, a student becomes an

ambassador of Northwestern.

"I stress to the kids how important it is to represent our university in the most positive way," said Brent. "I have very strict rules about what students can do while in uniform. First of all, the students cannot appear in public only partly dressed out. They must be in full uniform or regular clothing. Secondly, they cannot drink or smoke in uniform."

"We do make sure that the students realize that they are here for an education and not just for band," said Brent. "We understand that they are students first and band members second."

The "Spirit of Northwestern" is continuing to grow everyday. Recruitment techniques, student support, and more importantly, alumni support is building this school's spirit daily. If everyone loves a parade then nothing can stifle Northwestern State University's Spirit.



# THE BOYS FROM DETROIT MAKE A HOME

**D**uring the 1930's, Louisiana State Normal had it's first "Yankee" arrive from the city of Detroit, Michigan. This yankee was soon followed by friends who came for a college education and ended up staying in Louisiana for over 50 years. Since that time, all four friends have become happy and successful southerners.

The first to set foot on the campus was John Fisher. The year was 1932 when Fisher was a freshman at Notre Dame and faced with a dilemma of how to finish his college career with banks and businesses failing all around him.

Making his farewell visit to one of his professors, the teacher handed him a Louisiana State Normal catalog and said, "Here's a school you can go to almost free."

In 1933, John Fisher became an enrolled

student in Natchitoches. After a year of school, he returned to Notre Dame to finish his degree but bringing back praises of the town and its college.

In 1936, his younger brother Jack came down south to be enrolled on a band scholarship and has lived in Louisiana ever since. Jack Fisher received his bachelor degree in Business in 1940 and later earned a Master's in Business. While a student at the Normal, he played varsity tennis and was later recognized by his election to the NSU Graduate "N" Club Hall of Fame in 1986.

He served a short time in the U.S. Navy during World War II as a yeoman and then an ensign.

Jack Fisher later established his business in sporting goods and music right off the Northwestern campus. He has

since served all the schools of central Louisiana.

Along with Fisher came Raymond Seshul accompanied by his friends Harold "Smoky" Smolinski, John Makar, Harold "Red" Mitchell and DeWitt Garrett. The "Detroit Boys" entered in the class of 1934 and began a new life for themselves.

At college Seshul became inspired to go to medical school. After marrying Marjorie Patterson of Shreveport in 1938, Seshul attended medical school at LSU in Baton Rouge and continued with an internship in New Orleans.

Jack Fisher's son, Larry Fisher is also a Northwestern graduate with a B.S. in math.

Seshul also served on active duty in WW II as a part of the Medical Corps. He spent most of his time on duty in the Southwest Pacific. After the war, he assumed a residency in internal medicine and became a specialist in that field. He was certified by the American Board of Internal Medicine and later inducted as Fellow of the American College of

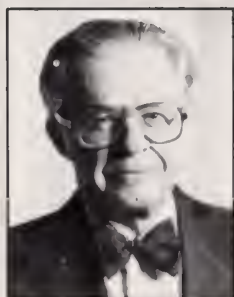
Physicians.

Seshul operated a private practice in Shreveport before joining the Veterans Administration Hospital in Alexandria, La. He later became the chief of Medical Services and served in that capacity until retirement.

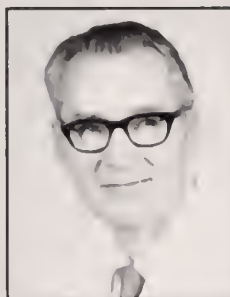
Seshul still resides in Alexandria and has a son, who is also a physician, as well as four grandchildren.

Harold J. Smolinski received his bachelor degree from Northwestern in 1938 and went on to earn his masters degree from LSU in 1940. He began a teaching career in accounting at Louisiana Tech in 1941. He retired from Tech in 1985 and was designated Director Emeritus by President F. Jay Taylor in recognition of 44 years of achievement in the pursuit of excellence in accounting. His efforts included the establishing of the School of Professional Accountancy.

Smolinski is married to the former Eugenia Cross of Minden and has a son, Harold Carl Smolinski, who is an assistant professor of accounting at LSU in Shreveport. His daughter is a high school counselor



Makar



Seshul



Fisher



Smolinski



in Arizona.

John Makar, also a member of the "Detroit Boys" graduated in 1938. After working for three years in vaudeville, he decided to continue school down south where he could get along on "nothing a year." Living in a boarding house on Cypress Street (now Poete) the boys worked their way through school by doing odd jobs, selling ads for the Current Sauce and Yearbook and by tutoring.

Makar was

known on campus as one of the must outstanding debaters and public speakers during the golden era of speech activities under Dr. Ralph L. Ropp. He continued school by attending LSU's law school where he was later named to the LSU Law Center Hall of Fame in 1987.

During WW II, Makar joined the Army and eventually rose to Lt. Colonel. He ended his military career as Director of the Foreign Claims service for Germany and

Denmark.

He began the practice of law in Natchitoches as well as founding the Guide Newspaper chain in the New Orleans area. Makar served as National President of the American Association of Court and Commercial Newspapers and was also International President of the International Brotherhood of Magicians from 1982-83.

Makar is married to Nobie Sullivan Gibbs and has three children.

The Detroit Boys came south to escape the dark depression of the 1930's which had hit the northern factory cities harder than most. They ended up receiving the love and admiration of the citizens of Louisiana, especially Natchitoches, and achieved great success as businessmen. Northwestern helped the boys grow into important men and of course Northwestern couldn't have grown without them.

**R**obert E. Easley has a lot on his hands these days since his promotion to the Director of Procurement at NASA's Johnson Space Center. A 1963 graduate of Northwestern, Easley received his Ph.D. in public administration from the University of Colorado after schooling in Natchitoches.

At Northwestern Easley received both his bachelor's and master's degrees in business. He then graduated in 1987 from Harvard Business School's Executive Management Program. He also completed the Brookings Institution's Program on Business Policy and Operations in 1985.

Easley's new position at JSC involves providing procurement and contract management support to the Johnson Space Center and the White Sands Test Facility.

Easley has five

## EASLEY WITH NASA

divisions reporting to him to manage JSC's approximately \$2 billion annual procurement and contracting activity. Contracting activity at JSC is highly diversified, consisting of contracting for Space Shuttles, Space Station elements, aircraft, computers, simulators, mission control center requirements, flight operations, program support, flight crew equipment and varied institutional requirements such as grounds and building maintenance, security, engineering and laboratory support and construction.

The Director of Procurement is also responsible for labor/management relations programs between organized labor and contractor organizations associated with the center.

Easley has been employed by NASA at the JSC since August,

1964. In addition to his present position as Director of Procurement, he has held various positions of progressively increased responsibility in the acquisition area at JSC, including Chief of the Pricing Office, Chief of the Research and Technology Procurement Office, Chief of the Shuttle Spacecraft Procurement Branch, Special Assistant to the Director of Administration and Chief of the Space Shuttle Procurement Division.

Easley has received numerous awards including the NASA Exceptional Service Medal, the LSC Certificate of Commendation, Outstanding Performance Awards, Superior Performance Awards and Special Achievement Awards.

Easley had a teaching fellowship while earning his master's degree and has served as an



Robert E. Easley

adjunct professor in the College of Business at the University of Houston.

In 1975 he was designated a Certified Professional Contracts Manager by the National Contract Management Association. Just this year he attained the rank of fellow in NCMA.

Although he is busy, Easley has made a life of his own. He is married to the former Judy Roberts, a Northwestern graduate of 1962. They have two children, Bobby, a junior at Baylor University and Chris, a freshman at the University of Houston.

**R**enee Hughes would agree that there have been a lot of changes in the photography department at Northwestern since December of 1984. That was when Hughes became the first student to ever graduate with a B.S. in photography from Northwestern State University.

When Hughes first began her photography studies, the program had just been approved by Northwestern. After reading about the approval in the *Alexandria Daily Town Talk*, she decided to try out the program. Traveling to Natchitoches, she enrolled along with the rest of a very small class of students.

Because the program was new, there was very little equipment available.

"We were an 'orphaned' program," explained Hughes. "We had to struggle to find what we could use and scrape by with what we had. None of us really knew what we were doing. We pretty much took our own pictures and went our different ways, but the teachers were good and we were able to borrow their equipment if we needed it."

Before graduation from Northwestern, Hughes studied for a summer in Chicago.

"At the time I didn't have any money and I didn't know any-

## NEW YORK Photo Career



Renee Hughes

one," said Hughes. "but then I was suddenly in the right place at the right time."

There Hughes made acquaintances who helped her out when she moved to New York City after graduation. Describing herself as a "jack of all trades," Hughes has in the last 4 1/2 years learned a number of ways to work in the big city.

Hughes now works for photographer John Paul Endress. Her job includes planning photography shoots in various locations, taking care of bills and basically managing the studio. She has learned a lot in her experiences.

"I've learned that photography is not just taking pretty pictures," said Hughes. "It involves a lot of problem

solving."

On weekends and after hours, Hughes works with photographer Peter BeCaplan. BeCaplan is the preferred photographer of such sites as the Statue of Liberty, the Empire State Building and the Golden Gate Bridge. Working with BeCaplan offers Hughes advantages most people could only dream of.

"Although the torch of the Statue of Liberty has been closed to the public since 1916, we are allowed to photograph there," said Hughes. "It is amazing."

Hughes expressed a wish that university photography courses would offer real life experiences in the classroom.

"If students want to be photographers

they have to learn the financing of running a studio, how to deal with people in the business and about copyrighting published photographs," said Hughes.

Hughes has aided in the placement of several students into summer internships. One such student was Northwestern graduate Allen Tendall who went to New York for one summer and ended up living there.

"Allen stayed here with me a while until he was on his own," said Hughes. "He just returned recently from a photo shoot in Europe."

Hughes has been known to help out any intern who needs a place to stay.

Although budget cuts have altered the program slightly, the photography department still flourishes. New equipment has increased the program's standing in Northwestern's Art Department as well as the enrollment of more talented students. Northwestern may soon have several photographers roaming the New York advertising firms following in the footsteps of its first photography alumni Renee Hughes.



**I**t is a football team's dream. Notre Dame did it last year. Penn State did it the year before. They reached the apex all football teams strive for...the unbeaten season. While Notre Dame, Penn State, and Miami can all claim the honor, only the best sports trivia players know that Northwestern State University can claim a spot on that most sought unbeaten team.

1939 was a pivotal year in history. It saw the start of World War II and Clark Gable and Vivian Leigh in *Gone With the Wind*. Back then, there was a small college primarily a teacher's education institution, Louisiana Normal School, which later became Northwestern State University. While major events were reshaping in the world, there was something special happening at this little school, particularly with its football team.

The Louisiana Normal football team, a predominantly senior led club, took the field against Centenary College for its first game and came away with a 15-0 victory. Little did the team know 11 games later when they defeated Southwestern Louisiana 6-0, they would finish the season not only undefeated, but would set and still hold the Northwestern record for most wins in a season.

The team, led by coach Harry "Rags" Turpin and assistant coach

and future Tech Head Coach Joe Aillet ended the season with the Louisiana Intercollegiate Conference and Southern Intercollegiate Athletic Association Champion-

tion. At the end of that season, Coach Turpin extended post-season game invitations to LSU and Alabama. Both teams refused to play.

Just what for-

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### 1939 Was A Very Good Year

"It was a great feeling...all the talent came together that year"---

Harry Creighton

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ships. They were ranked fourth internationally by seasons end and were mentioned on the Walter Winchell Show, a noted New York broadcaster of the day.

While the 1966 team finished unbeaten with nine wins and last year's Southland Conference Champion team finished with 10 victories, that 1939 squad still can claim the mark of the best Northwestern team in history.

"We were an unusually good team" said starting right tackle and Natchitoches native Roy Gentry, Sr. "We may not have been the best team here, but there hasn't been a team any better," said Gentry of his team which outscored their opponents 195-18 that season.

Beating the competition that badly can make other teams tend to back down. The Normal squad was no excep-

mula sets the great teams apart from the rest? Gentry feels the experience of playing together may have been the key.

"We were a good freshman team. Freshmen couldn't play varsity, but our freshman team could go out and beat the varsity team any day of the week," said Gentry. "We played together from our freshman year on and picked up some key players our senior year."

Another part of that winning formula could have been team balance and good coaching. Back-up quarterback, also a Natchitoches native, Ted Wright thinks that may have played a part.

"We were just a good all around team," said Wright who was a sophomore that year. "We had a good bunch of boys who didn't like to lose. We were also one of the

first units to play our first and second teams instead of having players play both ways (offense and defense)."

Coach Turpin also played a big role in the success of that year.

"He was a fine fellow...an understanding man," said Wright. "He wasn't fancy, he just believed in getting the job done."

Wright is not the only one who credits much of the team's laurels with Coach Turpin. Starting end, Harry Creighton, who at 6-5 would still be a Demon prospect, agreed.

"He was honest, sincere, and he knew football. He was a good teacher," said Creighton. "He was a man of high morals."

Creighton was overwhelmed by the whole experience.

"It was a great feeling. A lot of talent came together that year," said Creighton. "Although it was my last year, I was elated. There was just a lot of camaraderie among us. I don't think we realized at the time how special that year was."

**F**our football standouts and two basketball greats, including all-time scoring leader Billy Reynolds, were enshrined October 7 in Northwestern State's 'N' Club Hall of Fame. The inductions bring the total Hall of Fame membership to 101 ex-Demon and Lady Demon greats.

Reynolds and Gene Wright are the former basketball stars in the 1989 induction class. They are joined by football greats Ross Gwinn, Kenny Hrapmann, Jack Huckaby and Al Phillips.

Reynolds, nicknamed "Billy the Kid," averaged 18.8 points in his 107-game career from 1973-77, finishing with 2,009 points. He is second on the Demon list in rebounding with 1,150 (10.7 avg.) and holds the single-season scoring record with 686 points in 1976-77, an average of 26.4 points per game.

He was twice an All-Louisiana pick and was chosen All-South Independent in 1976-77, when he was named

## "N" Club Hall Of Fame 101 Members

NSU's Outstanding Athlete. A 6-6 native of Calhoun, Reynolds started 105 games and set nine school records.

Wright was an honorable mention All-American in 1960-61 and was a three-time All-Gulf South Conference pick. He lettered from 1958-62, helping the Demons to a 67-43 record while scoring more than 1,000 career points. He was the leading scorer for the 1959-60 team that finished 23-5 with GSC regular season and tournament championships.

Gwinn, a tackle, was a key member of the unbeaten 1966 Demon football team. He was All-GSC in 1965 and 1966 and played professionally with the Baltimore Colts in 1967, the New Orleans Saints from 1968-70 and

the Edmonton Eskimos of the Canadian Football League in 1972. Gwinn, a Natchitoches resident, won four letters in football and track and field at Northwestern.

Hrapmann was a four-year starter from 1968-71 at defensive back. His 17 career interceptions rank second on the all-time Demon list. Voted Most Valuable Player and Permanent Team Captain in 1971, Hrapmann was an All-GSC pick as a freshman and was Northwestern's top defensive back (according to coaches' grades) for three of his four seasons. He came to the Demons from New Orleans' Holy Cross High, where he was a composite all-state running back and led the state

in scoring as a prep senior.

Huckaby never played high school football but won four letters at Northwestern from 1947-50. He singlehandedly won the 1950 Homecoming game against Southeastern Louisiana by blocking a punt for the winning touchdown. A Hall Summitt resident, Huckaby was an honorable mention All-GSC as a sophomore and first-team All-GSC in 1950 at tackle.

Phillips ranks fifth in career receiving yardage with 1,484 yards (19.2 per catch) and is seventh in career receptions with 77. Phillips played from 1966-69 on Demon teams that compiled a 27-9 record including the 9-0 mark in 1966. He had 10 touchdowns in 1968, when he set a school record with 35 catches for 642 yards. Phillips still holds the NSU record for best single-season kickoff return average, 27.9 in 1970.

## Class Notes

**34** Velma Wall Knowles, B.A. is a retired teacher and currently resides in Longview, Texas.

**39** B.C. Hamilton, B.S., is retired and living in Ruston, La. He is married to Iwilla Bissier Hamilton who is a 1941 graduate of Northwest

ern.

**53** Glynn Ellen Pennington McCoy, B.A. English, is a paralegal with Northwest Louisiana Legal Services, Inc. She currently resides in Shreveport.

**56** Irene Trevil-

lion Lee, B.S., has been named the assistant principal of Buckeye High School in Buckeye, La. for the fall 1989.

**60** Juanita, M.S., and Ellis Coutee, B.S., have been chosen for investiture into the Equestrian Order of the Knights

and ladies of the Holy Sepulchre. E. Coutee is presently serving as the State Deputy of the Knights of Columbus. Membership in the Order of the Holy Sepulchre is reserved for exemplary and faithful Catholic men and women who are chosen to participate in a pontifical apostolate



mandated by the Holy Father.

**62** Kathleen Gates Thom, B.S., is currently a staff nurse at the V.A. Medical Center in Pollock, La.

**63** Patricia Anne Gandy Waddell, B.A., is the Sales Executive and Promotionist for KMJJ-FM radio station in Shreveport, La.

**64** Katherine Ann Berry Brewton, B.S., is currently the secretary/treasurer at Brewton Express, Inc in Winnfield, La. She is married to Brian Elton Brewton.

**67** Walter B. Gatlin, M.Ed., was appointed Assistant Superintendent for Special Education Services during the August meeting of the Louisiana Board of Elementary and Secondary Education. Since 1976, Gatlin has served as Director of Special Services for the Rapides Parish School Board. Responsibilities involved directing all aspects of special education programs and activities including education for the handicapped, gifted education, pupil appraisal and support services. Gatlin's new position contains responsibilities for directing all special education programs, activities and services for the state. Gatlin is a past president of the YMCA Board of Directors, past president and Governor of the Alexandria Civitan Club and is a member of the Lou-

isiana School Administration Association.

**68** John Pharo Sills, B.S., recently graduated with a Master of Business Administration degree from Mississippi College in Clinton, MS.

**72** Reid Brau, B.S., was recently selected as chapter manager of the Northwest Louisiana American Red Cross. As an eleven year veteran of the Red Cross service, Brau has held the positions of Director of Disaster Services, Director of Water Safety, Director of Health and Safety Services, and Assistant Chapter Manager. During his work with the Red Cross, Brau has participated in numerous national and local disaster relief efforts in the areas of family services, mass care, damage assessment and co-directing small disaster operations. In addition, he directed and administered one-family fire services for the northwest Louisiana eight-parish area. Brau has the highest credentials of any Red Cross Safety Services employee in Louisiana and has subsequently taught at the best aquatic schools in the nation. Brau resides in Blanchard, LA with his wife Carolyn and his two daughters.

**72** Wade Curry, MBA, is working in personnel at Cleco in Pineville, La. He has a wife named Lisa and two children.

**74** Robert W.

Fowlkes, Jr., B.S., is self-employed and living in Monroe, La.

**74** Karl W. Moore, MBA, was recently appointed Director of Information Systems for International Paper. In this position he will have responsibility of world wide IS operations which includes all computer operations, systems development, voice and data communications. Moore joined International Paper in June 1960 as administrative trainee in the Southern Kraft Division headquarters in Mobile, Alabama. He has since held a number of positions with the company since that time including Vice-President of Finance, Director of Corporate Financial Systems and Corporate Accounting. He is married to Linda Aiken Moore and has two children.

**75** Pat Douget was awarded \$150 for winning a Navy insignia contest for the submarine USS Alexandria. Douget was tied for first place in the adult division. Three winners were named in the children's division. The naval submarine is named for the cities in both Louisiana and Virginia.

**76** Sally Kay Tanner, BAA, is the Supervisor of Textbooks and Libraries for the Bossier Parish School Board.

**76** Paula J. Tripp,

Ph.D., B.S. Home Economics, is currently the Assistant Professor of Home Economics at Delta State University in Cleveland, MS. She resides in Greenville, MS. with her husband and two children.

**77** Aliene McCoy, recently made several presentations on education including the Louisiana Association for Education of Young Children Conference in New Orleans in early August. McCoy's presentation was titled "Self Esteem: The key to a positive life." More recently, McCoy appeared at the Louisiana Association for Children Under Six conference held in Alexandria during November. McCoy spoke on self esteem as well as "Family Violence: What is it? Who does it affect?" McCoy has been employed by the Red River Parish School Board for 12 years and has been an early childhood teacher for 11 years. The Chapter 1 program was presented a certificate of merit by the United States Department of Education in 1988 for excellence in its field.

**81** Chris Soileau, B.S. Education, is currently the Physical Director at the A.C. Lewis YMCA in Baton Rouge. He resides there with his wife Lisa.

**81** Navy Lt. Duand P. Spruce, B.S., recently deployed to Iwakuni, Japan while serving with Marine At-

## Alumni Events

tack Squadron-331, 2nd Marine Aircraft Wing, Marine Corps Air Station at Cherry Point, N.C. During the deployment, Spruce will participate in numerous military exercises and visit foreign ports such as South Korea, Republic of the Philippines and Okinawa, Japan. Spruce graduated in 1986 with a Doctor of Medicine degree from the University of Arkansas College of Medicine, Little Rock, Ark. He joined the Navy in Nov. 1987.

**82** Terry Wester Sanders, B.S., recently received an M.A. in Communication at Northeast Louisiana University

in May of 1989.

**85** Sandy Fortenberry Joiner, B.S. CIS, is currently the Senior Technical Writer with Eriasson Network Systems. She resides in Rowlett, Texas with her husband.

**85** Daniel P. Ryals is the Production Operator for Conoco, the New Orleans division.

**86** Diane Knight, Ed. D., is currently an assistant professor of Special Education at the Georgia Southwestern College in Americus, GA. Dr. Knight specializes in the field of learning disabilities and is active in

several national and state professional education organizations. She most recently served as an adjunct professor in the Special Education Department at Northwestern.

**87** Michaela Sampite, B.A., recently made her national debut as a Dallas Cowboy Cheerleader. Sampite was one of 20 cheerleaders selected to perform at halftime during the Cowboys first home game of the 1989-90 football season. Currently, Sampite resides in Irving, TX where she is employed as an assistant manager of an apartment complex.

### Obituaries

Carrie G. Fiske died on July 1, 1989. Fiske was a 1918 graduate of Northwestern.

Lessie Hardin Loyd of Baton Rouge died on August 8, 1989. Loyd was a 1940 graduate of Northwestern.

Dianna Horton Weego of Pineville died on August 4, 1989. Weego was a 1967 graduate of Northwestern with a BA in education.

**Help us to keep you informed by filling out Alumni/Class notes form on page 21.**

**R**ecently four Northwestern roommates were reunited on the Natchitoches campus for a weekend of sentimental reminiscence.

Arriving on the weekend of July 8, 1989 were Linda Sue King Simmons, class of '61, Clotile Nattin Berlin, class of '62, Sandy Marx Crenshaw, class of '63 and Mary Bergeron Dranguet, class of '64, whose house they stayed in.

After meeting face to face and reliving old memories of school days, the four women were given a tour of their now renovated room in Varnado Hall. The ladies also visited the Alumni Center and were treated to lunch at the Landing

## Reminiscent Weekend



Left to right are Mary Dranguet, Linda Simmons, Clotile Berlin and Sandy Crenshaw.

Restaurant as guests of the NSU Alumni Association.

Dranguet

graduated with a degree in education and became a teacher at the Pre-school Center in Natchitoches.

She is married to Ed Dranguet, president of the Exchange Bank of Natchitoches.

Simmons teaches in Jefferson Parish as an Adult Education Instructor. She now resides in Gretna, La.

Berlin teaches social sciences in Humble I.S.D. Her husband, also an NSU graduate, works for Exxon. They reside in Kingwood, TX.

Crenshaw also married an NSU graduate. She is currently an office manager for State Farm Insurance. Her husband is a State Farm agent. They reside in Alexandria, La.



# Homecoming Photo Album!



Paul "Doc" Marx of the champion Demon football team of 1939 receives a commemorative plaque from Dr. Robert Alost. Marx was the trainer of the undefeated 1939 football team which held its 50-year reunion during this Homecoming.



Several alumni participated in a Homecoming golf tournament at the Recreation Complex.



Hungry alumni help themselves to a jambalaya dinner at the Recreation Complex.



The Pom Pom Line performs for a spirited crowd during the Homecoming pep rally.



Katherine Douciere and Dell Morgan proudly display one of the many bingo prizes donated for Homecoming weekend. Mrs. Morgan has donated a homemade afghan for a prize every year since 1984.





Members of Sigma Kappa Sorority wave at the crowd as they roll by during the Northwestern Homecoming parade. Sigma Kappa won first place with their float entitled, "There's No Place Like Home . . . Demonland."



Six alumni cheerleaders donned their old uniforms to perform with the Northwestern yell leaders during the Homecoming game.



A happy group of Northwestern students cheer the Demons on to a 30-7 victory over the North Texas State Eagles during the Homecoming game.



The Alumni and Foundation Board of Directors hold a meeting while on campus.



Hall of Fame inductees are presented during halftime. They are (left to right) Jackie Huckaby, Ross Gwinn, Gene Wright, Kenny Hrapmann, Billy Reynolds and Al Phillips.

# Homecoming Photo Album!



**D**an Bell leaves no doubt.

This is definitely his Northwestern State basketball team.

Bell took over the Demon basketball program late last August, inheriting a group picked to finish eighth in the Southland Conference.

"They didn't choose me, and I didn't choose them. We made the best of it, and I appreciate their efforts," said Bell after his rookie season ended with a 13-16 record and a surprising fourth-place SLC finish.

Six seniors completed their Demon careers. Another couple of players didn't stick around for Bell's second year. Only five hardy souls decided to hang in there.

That was exactly the kind of turnover Bell wanted.

Bell, who guided his upstart Demons to an 85-82 upset of the Kentucky Wildcats last Dec. 7, added 11 names to the roster in his first recruiting class. Bell believes his recruits compare well with the ones he used to sign while an assistant at Marshall, where the Thundering Herd went 90-30 from 1983-87.

"We are excited with the crop of new players coming into our program," he said. "I think the quality on and off the court has risen a level."

Heading the new arrivals are six junior college transfers: Greg

## Demons Rebuild

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"We are excited with the crop of new players coming in to our program"

---

*Dan Bell*

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McCall and Rodney Jones from Kings River CC, Eric Scanlan of Chattanooga State CC, Lee Brown, Jr. of Seminole JC, Isaiah Davis of Trinity Valley CC and Greg Ashlock, a 5-10 point guard from Trinity Valley.

McCall and Jones led the previously dormant Kings River program to consecutive 20-win seasons. Scanlan ranked third among all JUCO players with 128 3-point baskets, scoring 22.4 points per game last year.

Brown picked off 28 rebounds to smash Horace Grant's single-game Seminole record. Davis is a great leaper who signed with South Alabama last year but; never enrolled. Ashlock is a coach's son who shot 65 percent from 3-point land as a freshman last year and was elected Trinity Valley's student body president.

Other new faces include Earl Fleming, a 6-7 forward from Tuscaloosa, Ala; Dexter Grimsley, a 6-7 forward from Abbeville, Ala; Jethro Owens, a 6-7 forward out of Houston; Jay

Scherer, 6-3 guard from Huntsville, Ala; and Mark Weaver, a 6-5 forward from Natchitoches.

Scherer transferred from East Carolina and will sit out this season. Fleming, Grimsley and Owens are true freshmen. Weaver is a sophomore who will red shirt this year.

While the newcomers provide the foundation for Bell's future, five holdover players are the heart of this season's hopes.

The only returning starter is 5-11 junior point guard Roman Banks, who averaged 11.4 points and four assists a year ago.

"Roman is our most experienced player and we expect a lot out of him. He's an excellent penetrator and improved shooter," says Bell.

Other returners include 6-7 post Alex Glasco and 6-5 forward Lazar Hearn, who saw limited action last year, and sophomores Trevor Smith and Mike Thornton, who are coming off serious injuries that put them out of action during the 1988-89 campaign.

"The season will be determined on how receptive the players are to the teaching and if they learn to play together," says Bell.

The Demons wasted no time in getting started. They drew nearly 300 fans to the Pizza Hut Midnight Madness Demon Basketball Party last weekend in Prather Coliseum.

The event tipped off preseason practice just after midnight on Oct. 15. The Demons have six weeks to prepare for their Nov. 25 season debut at Southern and a Nov. 27 game at Grambling.

Northwestern's home schedule starts Dec. 1, the night before the Natchitoches Christmas Festival, when Grambling visits Prather Coliseum.

The Demons have holiday games on the road at LSU, Wyoming, Colorado State, Lamar and Texas Tech before settling down for the Southland Conference season in Mid-January.

"Get your program early so we can figure out who's who," says Bell. "This is a true first year. Last year was the twilight zone."

"This time, I've been in some homes, talked to them. Up to now, I'm proud to say they are our guys."



Coach James Smith

The first time they were tapping on the door, the second time they were banging on the door, the third time they are going to kick the door down. That philosophy applied by Houston Oiler Coach O.A. "Bum" Phillips could very well apply to the 1989-90 North-western State Lady Demon basketball team. The Lady Demons, who made their second national tournament appearance in three years, are looking to become familiar faces in the crowd when the NCAA hosts its annual 48 team party.

The Lady Demons are coming off one of their finest campaigns ever with a 22-8 record including victories over nationally ranked opponents Stephen F. Austin and Missouri. The Lady Demons capped off a stellar year with their first ever invitation to the NCAA Tournament. Standing on the threshold of being a national power has fueled Lady Demon fires and they are ready to kick down the "doors" that will put them on top.

The "big boot", Coach James Smith heads into his third season with

## Lady Demons In 1989-90

a balance of old boots and new boots. One old boot Smith is more than a little happy to have back is senior forward Pam Hudson.

Hudson, better known as "Hud", came to the team from Kilgore Junior College where she led the Lady Rangers to their first National Junior College championship. She was named Most Valuable Player at the tournament and was later named to the Kodak All-American Team. Hudson joined the Lady Demons after the fourth game and amazed Lady Demon fans and opponents alike the rest of the way.

Hud's curtain call for a full 1990 season could even surpass her remarkable junior season. She finished the '89 campaign averaging 20.9 points per game and 9.9 rebounds per game. She was ranked ninth nationally in field goal percentage (61.6%), had 20 or more points in 17 games and 10 or more rebounds in 14 games.

All this and more led to her being named All Southland Conference first-team, Southland Conference "Newcomer of the Year",

and she was named to the Southland Conference All-Tournament Team.

If she just equals last year's performance she could move into 12th place in career scoring and rebounding totals; both were top 10 performances in the single season category.

While Smith will look to Hudson as a team leader, don't count out the supporting cast. Returning junior starter Iris Dixon could provide the outside threat the Lady Demons will need.

Dixon broke into the starting line up midway through the '89 season with a hot shooting hand which saw her post a career high 20 points versus McNeese last season. Her long range consistently helped balance the Lady Demon offensive attack down the stretch. Dixon finished the season with an 8.3 scoring clip. Known for her tenacious defense, Smith will look to her to control opponent threats on the other end of the floor.

With the loss of three starters, forwards Linda Grayson, Andrea Carter, and point guard Michelle Efferson, Smith



Pam Hudson

will have some big "boots" to fill. He may call on senior Kim Scott to become the New Lady Demon floor general.

Scott, a member of the Kilgore national championship team, came on to spill Efferson last year. With flashy moves and uncanny passing ability, Scott could follow in the tradition of great Lady Demon point guards.

Smith might also give sophomore Rachel Penny the nod. Penny's court intelligence and ability to penetrate for the jumper may be a part of the combination Smith is looking for.

In the forward positions, the battle is on between some old hands and new faces. Senior Tee Holden, junior Sonia Cox, and newcomers Leola Shaw and Mona Pearrie may be vying for the remaining starter's positions.

Holden's quickness and leaping ability have transformed this 5-9 Natchitoches native into a legitimate post player. She finished the season on a hot streak which saw her post career single-game highs in points (19) and steals (7).



Cox's strength in the point could provide the power inside Smith is looking for. That strength on a 6-3 frame combined with great work habits could prove dangerous for Lady Demon opponents.

Smith is excited about newcomers Shaw and Pearrie and with good reason. Shaw, a junior college transfer from Hinds Community College, was named to the Region 23-all-star team following her sophomore

season. A strong rebounder and soft shooting touch could propel her into the starting line-up.

Pearrie, a sophomore, Proposition 48 player, will suit up for the first time after a year at Northwestern. A combination of raw talent and athleticism will make Pearrie a player to watch.

The biggest problem with depth for Smith should be deciding who to put in the game. When Smith needs instant

offense, he'll definitely look to sophomore Tammy Blankenship. The left-hander could be nicknamed "Radar" for her uncanny ability to hone in on the goal while surrounded by a number of defenders.

If he needs a utility player, look for Yolanda Brown to make an appearance. A quick leaper and hustler, she always seems to have a nose for the rebound, but if Smith needs a

bucket from 3-point land, Brown can also move out and bomb away.

Depth at the guard position will be no problem. Smith could go with speedsters Leslie Peoples and Crystal Datcher or newcomer Tami Knotts who could provide an outside shooting touch.

This could be the season to knock down the door.

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